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Section III:
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121 to the
DRAWINGS

No amendments or changes to the Drawings are proposed.

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Section IV:
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121
REMARKS

Objections to the Specification

In the Office Action, an objection to the specification under 37 C.F.R.1.75(d)(1) was made regarding support for the step of "parsing said retrieved contact record to obtain a search key value". It was held that applicant's specification did not contain a clear and concise description of the method by which the retrieved record is parsed in order to find a search term. It was stated that this would be assumed to mean searching for an e-mail address *as taught by the cited Chen reference*.

Applicant respectfully traverses this objection, and requests reconsideration on the following grounds. Applicant's claims should be interpreted in light of applicant's own disclosure, not in light of other art.

Applicant's specification clearly states that "contact information" is retrieved from administered contact databases, and examples of such have been given, including but not limited to telephone number (pg. 17, line 11), email address (pg. 17, lines 15 - 16), contact name, employee number or member number (pg. 17, lines 17 - 18), and work location (pg. 20, line 9).

Applicant's process of parsing and searching for key values related to contact list information are fully and clearly disclosed in applicants paragraphs as follows (excerpted from applicant's disclosure, emphasis added):

[0067] Table 1 shows a typical record construction of the text-based contact list file used by Sametime. In this format, semi-colons ":" are used to separate data items within a contact record, and end-of-line characters <EOL> are used to separate contact records. Other implementations of the invention with other real-time collaboration clients products may require the interface (42) to the contact list (43) to be more sophisticated, such as a SQL database interface.

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[0070] First, the contact list or database is accessed (52), such as by opening a text file or obtaining a reference to a database query function. The first record or entry in the contact list is retrieved, and a first search key item is retrieved from that record (53). According to the preferred embodiment, the email address of that particular record is extracted. An email address is normally the most unique data key available to use as a search key. In an enhanced embodiment, multiple keys can be extracted (e.g. email address, location, etc.) to produce more exact search results.

[0071] Then, unless all other possible elements are present in the record, such as a telephone number for that contact and location or other desired data items, the managed personal information store may be queried (54) for matching related records and data items using the search key item previously retrieved from the record (53).

[0072] If any matching entries in the managed personnel information store are found (55), then the entry in the contact list or database is modified (56) or otherwise updated (56) to include the additional data items found in the managed personal information store record.

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[0073] If no matching entries in the managed personal information storer are found (55), then processing may simply proceed to the next entry or record in the contact list. According to the preferred embodiment, the user may optionally enable the invention to automatically delete entries in his or her contact list if no matching or confirming records are found in the managed personal information store.

[0074] Next, if more records exist in the contact list or the database (57), then the next search key item from the next contact list record or entry (58) is retrieved. This next key item is then processed by querying the managed personal information store for matching related data items (54), and updating (56) any matched entries in the contact list or database.

[0075] This process is continued until all entries in the contact list or database have been updated and expanded to include all available information (or all desirable information) from the managed personal information store.

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By “parse”, we mean the customary action in computer processing of dividing a computer-readable data item such as a database record (e.g. a contact entry in a SameTime contact list) into parts or portions which can be examined individually (e.g. into name, address, telephone number, location, email address, etc.). We have provided a structural reference for SameTime contact list records (see Table 1) which uses semicolons “;” and end-of-line characters to delimit fields within records, and which assume a certain order of fields (e.g. full name first, nick name second, email address third, etc.):

Table 1: Example Simple Text File Contact List

```
<full_name>; <nick_name>;<email>;<tel_1>;<tel_2>;<phys_addr>;  
<company>; <title>; <EOL>  
smith, john; johnny; jsmith@company.com; 703-111-2222;;;Company Inc.;;;  
doe, jane; janey; janey2002@aol.com;;;;;  
:  
:  
<end_of_file>
```

Our use of the term “parse” is within the usual meaning of the term in computer science and programming jargon, as is evidenced by the definition found at www.WhatIs.com (Emphasis added):

parse

To parse is to analyze something in an orderly way. In linguistics, to parse is to divide words and phrases into different parts in order to understand relationships and meaning. For example, English students are sometimes asked to parse a sentence by dividing it into subject and predicate, and then into dependent phrases, modifiers, and so forth.

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In computers, to parse is to divide a computer language statement into parts that can be made useful for the computer. A parser in a program compiler is a program that takes each program statement that a

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developer has written and divides it into parts (for example, the main command, options, target objects, their attributes, and so forth) that can then be used for developing further actions or for creating the instructions that form an executable program.

It is within the skill of those in the art to implement a computer instruction or set of instruction to access and open a contact list having the format as set forth in Table 1, and to parse the record into component fields to extract a key value such as an email address, in order to realize the greater invention as claimed, when such a person is enabled by applicant's disclosure.

For these reasons, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

In the Office Action, method claims 1 - 3, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being directed towards non-statutory subject matter, and for specifically failing to recite steps or elements which define structural or functional interrelationships between elements of a computer.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejections of Claims 1 - 3, 6, and 9 in view of the present amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Rejections over Chen

In the Office Action, claims 1 - 6, 8 - 15, 17 - 24, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for lack of novelty as being anticipated by U.S. published patent application 2002/0049751 to Chen (hereinafter "Chen").

Chen is silent as to the following steps, elements or limitations of our claims (as amended herein):

- (a) opening a real-time messaging client contact list which is a text-based file in a SameTime-compatible format as specified in our Table 1 in which semicolons separate fields, EOL characters separate contact records, and fields are in a pre-defined order;
- (b) determining if any fields are incomplete or empty in each real-time messaging client contact record;

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- (c) responsive of finding incomplete or empty fields, searching one or more managed personal information store using a key value extracted from each contact record;
- (d) retrieving information from the managed personal information store which is missing from the real-time messaging client contact record;
- (e) updating the incomplete or empty fields of the real-time messaging client contact record to include the retrieved information; and
- (f) automatically deleting real-time messaging client contact records from the contact list if no corresponding information is found in the searched managed personal information store.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 1 - 6, 8 - 15, 17 - 24, 26 and 27 is requested for these reasons.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Rejections over Chen in view of Melman

In the Office Action, claims 7, 16, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of U.S. published patent application 2004/0078388 to Melman (hereinafter "Melman").

Melman is also silent as to teaching or suggesting the steps as described in the foregoing paragraphs regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Chen. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 7, 16, and 25.

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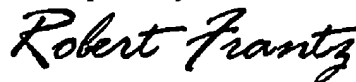
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Conclusion

Certain amendments to the claims have been made, and no new matter has been added. The disclosure adequately sets forth the invention in a level of detail, including figures, which enables one of ordinary skill in the art of computer programming to realize the invention in one or more embodiments. The cited art fails to teach all of the claimed elements, steps, or limitations.

Applicant requests reconsideration of all objections and rejections, and allowance of the claims as amended.

Respectfully,



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